

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 24, with the following redlined paragraph:

As illustrated in Figure 10, the valve assembly 53 includes a valve body 63 and valve mechanism 64 that selectively allows high-pressure fluid to flow through it when the valve body is coupled to the source of high-pressure fluid. In conventional systems, external threads on an upper region of the nozzle body 100 engage threads provided on an inner surface of the valve body 63. However, depending on the starting point of the operation to thread the nozzle body 100 into the valve body 63, the orientation of the entry port 84-86 for high-pressure tubing into the valve assembly 53, and the orientation of ports 22, 39, cannot be predicted with accuracy. It traditionally therefore may take several attempts to align the nozzle body 100 and valve body 63 in a desired location, which is important, given the relative rigidity of high-pressure tubing. This problem is overcome in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein a collar 58 having a smooth outer surface 65 and threaded inner surface 67 is received in a recess 59 in valve body 63. The wall 66 of recess 59 is also smooth, such that the collar is free to rotate within the recess. The threaded inner surface 67 of collar 58 engages threads on the upper region 57 of the nozzle body 100. As such, collar 58 is threaded onto nozzle body 100, and the assembly is then inserted into valve body 63 and oriented as desired. A nut 60, carried by nozzle body 100, is then threaded onto threads 61 provided on an outer surface 62 of the valve body, thereby coupling the nozzle body to the valve assembly while maintaining the valve and nozzle body in the selected orientation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 14, with the following redlined paragraph:

A system provided in accordance with the present invention therefore imparts motion to a high-pressure fluid jet about 1-5 axes, thereby causing the jet to cut along a path while in a selected orientation. The orientation parameters and process parameters for the system are controlled through a software system 69, as described and claimed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/940,687, entitled METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR

Application No. 09/940,689  
Reply to Office Action dated December 17, 2003

AUTOMATED SOFTWARE CONTROL OF WATERJET ORIENTATION PARAMETERS,  
incorporated herein by reference.